

Amendment to the Abstract:

The Abstract has been amended. A revised Abstract is attached.

Attachment

A compact tripod (1) ~~comprises~~includes at least three legs (2) converging on a spider (3) and hinged thereto at one end by ~~means of a~~ corresponding hinge ~~sleeve~~means (13) and ~~fork member~~counter means (15), and a A support (5) is provided for a head (6) mounted on the spider (3) in a position such that ~~this~~it projects from the spider opposite the legs (2) when the tripod is open in an operating position. The hinge ~~sleeve~~means (13) and ~~counter means~~ (15)~~fork member~~ are designed to allow the legs to be folded back from the ~~said~~ part of the support (5) when the tripod is closed in a non-operating position. Additionally, the hinge ~~sleeve~~means (13) and ~~fork member~~counter means (15) comprise include a toothed ~~means~~ (27,28)element and a corresponding stop ~~means~~ (25) for the toothed ~~means~~ (27,28)element which are capable of interacting together to limit the extent by which the legs (2) open with respect to the spider (3).